

REMARKS

By Final Office Action mailed October 23, 2003, pending claims 17-27 stand rejected as claiming the same invention as claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12-14 of copending U.S. Application No. 09/428,839 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,656,431) (the "co-pending application") and pending claims 28-30 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting also over claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12-14 of the co-pending application.

In order to place this application in condition for allowance, claims 17-27 have been cancelled, claim 28 has been amended to recite as an independent claim incorporating all the elements of previously pending claim 17, and a Terminal Disclaimer over the co-pending application is submitted herewith.

In view of the above, claims 28-30 are in condition for allowance. A good faith effort has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. However, should any further issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the same. Furthermore, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

As a final matter, Applicants note that the Office Action Summary mailed February 4, 2003 indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 3, 2001 was considered, however, on the copy attached thereto, a number of the references were not initialed. Applicants kindly ask that an initialed copy be forwarded along with the Examiner's next paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:

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